

**HEADQUARTERS
TENNESSEE NATIONAL GUARD
JOINT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
3041 SIDCO DRIVE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37204-1502**

June 27, 2004

News Editor/Director

Dear Editor/Director:

The Tennessee National Guard Public Affairs will soon nominate media here in Tennessee for embed opportunities during possible future deployments of Tennessee National Guard units.

The Department of Defense (DoD) policy on media coverage of future military operations is that media will have long-term, minimally restrictive access to U.S. air, ground and naval forces through embedding.

If approved, media will live, work and travel as part of a unit with which they are embedded to facilitate maximum, in-depth coverage of U.S. forces in combat and related operations.

A media embed is defined as a media representative remaining with a unit on an extended basis – perhaps a period of weeks or even months. The military will provide billeting, rations and medical attention as well as access to military transportation and assistance with communications filing/transmitting media products, if required.

If your news organization is interested in being nominated for embedding in possible future deployments of Tennessee National Guard units, please complete and return the attached form to the Tennessee National Guard Joint Public Affairs Office no later than July 15, 2004.

Sincerely,

////////SIGNED////////

Encl

Randy D. Harris
SFC
Director, Joint Public Affairs Office

**Embedding Media
for
Possible Future Operations/Deployments**

- **The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs (OASD-PA) is the central agency for authorizing media embeds. The Tennessee National Guard Joint Public Affairs will submit nominations for media embeds to OASD-PA for approval.**
- **Commanders will provide billeting, rations and medical attention, if needed, to the embedded media commensurate with that provided to members of the units, as well as access to military transportation and assistance with communications filing/transmitting media products, if required.**
- **Embedded media are not authorized use of their own vehicles while traveling in an embedded status.**
- **To the extent possible, space on military transportation will be made available for media equipment necessary to cover a particular operation. The media is responsible for loading and carrying their own equipment at all times.**
- **Unit commanders will ensure that media are provided with every opportunity to observe actual combat operations. The personal safety of correspondents is not a reason to exclude them from combat areas.**
- **Commanders will obtain theater clearance from U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) Public Affairs for media embarking on military conveyance for purposes of embedding.**
- **Units hosting embedded media will issue invitational travel orders, and nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) gear.**
- **Media are responsible for obtaining their own passports and visas.**
- **Media will pay their own billeting expenses if billeted in a commercial facility.**
- **Media will deploy with the necessary equipment to collect and transmit their stories.**

Embedding Media

- **Media may terminate their embed opportunity at any time. Unit commanders will provide, as the tactical situation permits and based on the availability of transportation, movement back to the nearest location with commercial transportation.**
- **Media organizations should ensure that media are properly immunized before embedding with units. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommended immunizations for deployment to the Middle East include Hepatitis A; Hepatitis B; Rabies; Tetanus-Diphtheria; and Typhoid. The CDC recommends Meningococcal immunizations for visitors to Mecca. If traveling to certain areas in the CENTCOM area of responsibility, the CDC recommends taking prescription antimalarial drugs. Anthrax and Smallpox vaccines will be provided to the media at no expense to the government. (The media outlet will bear the expense.)**
- **Because the use of personal protective gear, such as helmets or flak vests, is both a personal and professional choice, media will be responsible for procuring/using such equipment. Personal protective gear, as well as clothing, will be subdued in color and appearance.**
- **The Tennessee National Guard Public Affairs point of contact for embedding media is CPT Trey Brannom, (615) 313-0633, FAX (615) 313-3129, EMAIL trey.brannom@state.tn.us.**